

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE: N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, at Five cents per copy. Annual subscription price—One Copy..... \$3
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Five Copies..... 8
Ten Copies..... 15

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Volume XXVII..... No. 347

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—EDITH, OR THE EARLY DAUGHTER.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—LOVE FOR LOVE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—WILLIE RILEY.—CURTAINS OF THE COUNTRY.—PAT A BLUNDER.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—BLONDETTE.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—COURT FOOL.—SALTIMORE.—JACK SHREPPARD.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—ROBIN HOOD.—CAMILLE.—LIGHT HOOD.—FIVE.

GERMAN OPERA HOUSE, Broadway.—CONCERT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, Niblo's Garden, Broadway.—LES FEMMES QUI PRESENTENT L'ORDE ET L'ONORE.—UN HOMME DE BIEN.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—DRESSING ROOMS.—THEATRE FRANCAIS.—AT 11 O'CLOCK P. M.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS' Mechanicals, Hall, 472 Broadway.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS' MECHANICALS, DANCES, &c.—HIGH DANCE.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS' MECHANICALS, DANCES, &c.—HIGH DANCE.

PALACE OF MUSIC, Fortieth Street.—CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS.—SONGS, DANCES AND BURLESQUES.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—MAJOR JOSEPH LUTHER.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—LIVING WILD ANIMALS.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, No. 44 Broadway.—BALLET, PASTORALS, BURLESQUES, &c.

PARISIAN CARNET OF MEMORIES, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS' MECHANICALS, DANCES, &c.—HIGH DANCE.

New York, Tuesday, December 16, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

With the exception of some heavy firing between the outposts of both armies there was no fighting on the Rappahannock yesterday. Everything was quiet, and the terrible conflict of Saturday is not yet renewed. Our troops were busy yesterday removing the wounded to the river side, lest the enemy should shell the city when the battle is renewed. The rebels, meantime, are actively engaged strengthening their defenses. At one time yesterday they made a feint to attack General Franklin's forces, but did not accomplish it. Beyond this slight demonstration there was no evidence of a design to renew the contest. The weather continued clear and salubrious, and the roads were again in fine condition. Since our army crossed the river they have captured fully seven hundred prisoners—stragglers in the city, sharpshooters on the river bank, and others taken in front of the works.

We give to-day a fine map of the scene of operations around Fredericksburg; but, for reasons which will be immediately comprehended by our readers, we omit the location of the Union batteries. An additional list of casualties will be found in our columns to-day, showing a heavy loss, especially among our officers, in the fight of Saturday.

On Sunday night, about eight o'clock, a body of rebel cavalry under Major White, about three hundred and twenty-five strong, made a dash into Pooleville, Md., and attacked a small body of Union troops, numbering about thirty-five men of Scott's cavalry, who were stationed in a wooden building. After the house was set on fire, and the Union troops had made the best resistance they could, they surrendered and were at once paroled. The rebels lost two killed and thirteen wounded in the skirmish. On our side the loss was only one killed and two wounded.

Various rumors were afloat yesterday, circulated by the Philadelphia papers, regarding the movements of General Banks' expedition; some of them to the effect that he had landed at Winton, N. C.; had taken command of the army of the Blackwater; had formed a junction with the troops at Suffolk, and was advancing upon Weldon and Petersburg.

The probability of these statements may be judged from the fact that the Brig. Pedro Sanchez Dolz, from Cuba, which arrived here yesterday, reports having spoken the Che Kiang, one of General Banks' vessels, bound southward, on the 5th inst., about twenty-five miles southeast of Cape Hatteras; and on the next day, the 6th, she passed five more large steamers, going in the same direction.

The United States steam gunboat Bienville also arrived here yesterday from Port Royal, S. C., bringing in tow the gunboat E. B. Hale in a disabled condition. The officers of the Hale report having passed four steamers and a brig, all heavily laden with troops, bound into Port Royal, on the morning of the 10th inst., when she was leaving that harbor. The landing of General Banks' troops at Winton, N. C., on Friday or Saturday is thus out of the question. It is known that the transport Thames, with four hundred men of the One Hundred and Fourteenth New York regiment, was disabled and put into Port Royal, where she was condemned as unseaworthy by General Brannan.

Our forces near Suffolk are not idle. Almost every day General Dix sends out a reconnoitering party to the Blackwater. On Thursday last General Ferry made an advance towards Zuni and engaged a rebel force. After some severe fighting he captured a captain and several privates. The sudden swelling of the river prevented his plans from being fully carried out.

A large amount of business was transacted by Congress yesterday, but we have only space for reference to the most important proceedings.

In the Senate, Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, offered a resolution, which was laid on the table, declaring that after it had become manifest that an insurrection against the United States was about to break out in several Southern States, James Buchanan, then President, from sympathy with the conspirators and their treasonable projects, failed to take the necessary and proper measures to prevent it; wherefore he should receive the censure and condemnation of the Senate and of the American people. A resolution requesting the President, if not inconsistent with the public interests, to transmit to the Senate the report and accompanying documents of Hon. Rev. Johnson as Commissioner of the United States during last summer at New Orleans, was adopted.

Mr. Wright, of Indiana, offered a resolution, which was also adopted, that the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by act of Congress that any loyal citizen of the United States, who has sustained damage from the troops of the States engaged in the present rebellion, may set off such damages against any claim or demand against him in any action at law by any such rebellious States, or the agents or trustees of such States, or in any case where such claim or demand is for the use or benefit of such States. A resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Relations to inquire whether some method cannot be devised to manifest the sympathy of Congress with the suffering Lancashire operatives, was ordered to be printed.

The resolution calling for information relative to arbitrary arrests in Delaware was taken up, and Mr. Davis made a speech, arguing that the President had no authority, under the constitution, to make such arrests. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives a resolution, declaring that in the judgment of the House there should be no legislation changing the existing laws providing for the payment of interest on the public debt in coin, was adopted by a vote of eighty-one against twenty-four, and a joint resolution, that the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States be and is hereby authorized and empowered to pay in coin any portion of the bonded public debt maturing and falling due previous to the first day of January, 1864, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Colfax introduced a bill to reduce the duties on paper from thirty-five down to ten per centum. It was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Noell, of Missouri, introduced a bill, which was referred, to procure the abolishment of slavery in Missouri and provide compensation to loyal owners. A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of revising the tariff, increasing the duty on foreign goods not of prime necessity, so that the importation of foreign goods shall not exceed the amount exported of American growth and manufacture, exclusive of specie. A resolution endorsing the President's emancipation proclamation was adopted by a vote of seventy-eight against fifty-one. The Army Appropriation bill was reported and made the special order for Thursday. The first proposition for peace was introduced by Mr. Conway, of Kansas, who offered a resolution in effect dissolving the Union, and acknowledging the independence of the Confederate States. It was laid on the table—Mr. Conway being the only one who voted in the negative. In Committee of the Whole, Mr. Cox, of Ohio, delivered a speech on the topics of the President's Message and the removal of General McClellan, and at the conclusion of his remarks the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A highly interesting and entertaining lecture, illustrating the manners and customs of the Japanese, the nature of their country and its various productions, was delivered at the Stuyvesant Institute last evening by Dr. Macgowan. The audience was select and appreciative, and the lecture, of nearly two hours' duration, met with their entire and hearty approbation. The lecturer has been for nearly twenty years a resident in China and Japan, and increased the interest of his remarks by exhibiting specimens of the natural and artificial productions of Japan.

The Tammany Society met last evening at Tammany Hall, and after the usual preliminary business, Captain Doyle, of the Tammany regiment, appeared before them, with the once beautiful flag which was presented by the society to this regiment, when the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. Captain Doyle, in a brief address, showed that Old Tammany was ever loyal to the Union, and, after appropriate responses by Grand Sachem Waterbury and others, a motion was made to deposit it in the archives of the society. No election for treasurer having taken place, on account of other important business, the warriors adjourned for the celebration of Jackson's birthday.

Mr. Boole offered a preamble and resolution at the Board of Aldermen, last evening, containing wholesale charges of mismanagement, extravagance, fraud and corruption against the Central Park Commissioners, and proposing to give the management and control of that institution into the hands of the Street Commissioner, for which purpose he asks for an appropriation of \$25,000.

A regular meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held last evening, when a large amount of routine business was transacted. The Board adopted a resolution that the Governor of the State be respectfully requested to memorialize Congress, now in session, for an increase of twenty-five per cent on the pay of the rank and file and line officers of all regiments from this city and State now serving in the Army of the United States. The Board then adjourned until this afternoon at four o'clock.

The Board of Excise for this city and county will hold its fifth and last session for granting licenses to sell liquors on Thursday, the 18th instant, at one o'clock P. M., in the City Hall.

Inquests were taken in four actions yesterday against Fernando Wood, brought by members of the Metropolitan Police, for alleged assault and battery during the conflict between the old and the new police in 1857. The suits were not defended by Mr. Wood, and verdict was given in each case for \$4,000.

An action for a balance of \$2,200 on a charter party was commenced in the Superior Court yesterday, in which Mr. Russell Sturgis, a gentleman somewhat mixed up with government war contracts, is plaintiff, and the well known house of Spofford & Tibbitts defendants. It appears that \$10,000 was paid by the United States government for the use of the transport ship Marion, though they had the privilege of purchasing her out and out for \$100,000 after the first voyage.

On Sunday a telegraphic cable was to be laid across the Hudson river, about three miles above West Point, to take the place of the masts across which the wires have been stretched heretofore at Butter Hill. The cable is two thousand eight hundred feet long, and is a piece of the celebrated Atlantic cable.

The Hudson river is again free from obstruction, and on Saturday night eight tons, containing one hundred and sixty loaded boats, left Albany for

New York. A large number were also coming down from Troy.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Judge Hoffman delivered a charge to the Grand Jury on the subject of arbitrary arrests of citizens. In concluding he said it may not be possible to prevent entirely the unlawful seizure and removal of citizens of our State, but it is possible to convict and punish those who, in this respect, shall be found guilty of a violation of our laws.

The report comes from Memphis that the Union gunboats have again commenced the bombardment of Vicksburg.

The New York Tenth regiment (militia) will leave Albany this morning for this city, and embark for the Banks expedition.

J. Wesley Greene, Jeff. Davis' peace envoy, has been arrested in Chicago for obtaining goods under false pretences.

The stock market was dull and lower yesterday—the feature being a general unwillingness to do business. Money was worth 6 per cent. Gold closed at 131 1/2, a rise of 1/2. The bank statement shows an increase of \$1,450,000 in loans, and \$1,087,889 in deposits, and a decrease of \$64,114 in specie.

Cotton was neglected yesterday; prices were nominal. Flour, wheat and corn were very dull and heavy. Pork and lard were plenty, heavy and declining, while beef was less active. A moderate business was reported in sugars, whiskey, hops and tallow, but most other articles were extremely quiet. There were heavier freight engagements effected, but at lower rates.

From Fredericksburg—The Two Armies Comparatively Quiet Yesterday.

As with us in New York, so at Fredericksburg yesterday, the day was bright, warm and beautiful. The weather and the roads were highly favorable for active military operations; and yet, beyond some irregular artillery discharges at long range, the day passed off quietly between the two great hostile armies in full view of each other. On our side, however, the care of the wounded and the necessary preparations for a more formidable and regular assault of the enemy's lines than that of Saturday made it a busy day, while the enemy were as industriously employed in strengthening their defensive works and in all the precautionary measures suggested for a vigorous resistance.

From all the information we have from the field, we conclude that the heavy batteries of General Burnside, with a very few exceptions, are still on the high ground on this side of the Rappahannock, from which they can make very little impression upon the rebel earthworks along the crests of the hills beyond the city on the opposite bank. It is probable, therefore, that before he next assaults the rebel defenses General Burnside will transfer at least a considerable number of his heavy guns to the other side of the river, and sufficiently near to silence the rebel batteries, preparatory to another advance of his infantry to carry them by storm. We have no doubt of his power, by means of his artillery to demolish the enemy's works, from the great advantage which he possesses over them in the number, calibre and improved construction of his heavy guns and their projectiles. It is probable, therefore, that some days may elapse before another movement is made to carry the enemy's positions. The attempt of Saturday, we think, shows that they cannot be carried by our infantry until we shall have silenced their enfilading batteries by an overpowering bombardment.

Meantime the question recurs, why is it that General Burnside has not been provided with troops sufficient in numbers to enable him, with an overwhelming pressure, to turn the flanks of General Lee while occupying the bulk of his forces to protect his centre? We cannot answer. We only know that if the heads of the War Office had determined upon reinforcing General Burnside to the extent of fifty thousand men, and upon a supporting diversion, by way of the James river, by another army of one hundred thousand men, that both these things could have been done without abandoning or endangering any point of great importance which we occupy elsewhere within the rebellious States. We know, too, that a double movement of this description upon Richmond, in speedily securing "the heart of the rebellion," would immensely facilitate all our designs in every other quarter; but why this crushing combination of forces has not been adopted is a mystery which we cannot unravel. We hear, however, that a formidable movement towards Richmond, by way of Suffolk and Petersburg, is in active progress; but that the forces of the Banks expedition are connected with it is news which we apprehend is too good to be true. It delighted this city yesterday; but it is news which needs confirmation.

As will be seen, from a leading article which we copy from the Richmond Examiner upon the subject, the rebel leaders of that city are in a state of alarm at the enormous magnitude of our land and water combinations and forces which are advancing upon them around the entire circle of the rebellion. But the attention of the loyal twenty-three millions of our people is fixed upon Richmond and upon the army of General Burnside, and should the reasonable demands and just expectations of these loyal people be disappointed in another long, doubtful and exhausting campaign for Richmond, the administration will be held to a fearful accountability. We earnestly admonish our patriotic President that the attention of the country is fixed upon Richmond, and that upon the speedy success of our Army of the Potomac depends, in all probability, the success of his administration.

REVOLUTION IN JAPAN.—Accounts received by way of San Francisco to the 25th of October make mention of a revolution having been effected there favorable to foreigners and restrictive of the power of the Yicoun. We are left in the dark as to the immediate causes and objects of this movement; but it is to be inferred that another cowardly attack made on a party of English people by the retainers of one of the high princes of the empire, in which one gentleman was literally cut to pieces and two others severely wounded, had something to do with it. There was a large number of Eng-

lish, French and Dutch men-of-war in the port of Yokohama at the time, and though no action was immediately taken by them in the matter, it is not improbable that, subsequent to the departure of the vessel that brings the announcement, such demands for redress were unitedly made by them as afforded to the party favorable to the foreign interest an opportunity of insisting upon a relaxation of the restrictions imposed upon trade. The news will be received with satisfaction by all who have an interest, present or prospective, in opening up the resources of this exclusive empire.

The Fight at Fredericksburg—Aval Responsibility of the War Department.

The news which we published yesterday and publish to-day from the Rappahannock is highly creditable to our able generals and gallant troops, but far from honorable to the War Department or hopeful for the country. With brilliant deeds of arms, and with the most terrible fighting, the enemy is still in possession of his strongholds, and we have failed to dislodge him. Burnside has done all that a skillful commander could do, the subordinate officers have acquitted themselves like heroes, and the rank and file of our army have fought with an obstinacy and a determination almost without a parallel in the history of war. Yet, from the advantages possessed by the enemy, the assault upon his works has been unsuccessful, and thousands of brave men have fallen in vain. The truth may as well be told—the finest army that ever trod the earth, possessing superior arms, large and small, and with all the appliances and resources of war at command, has suffered a decided repulse at the hands of a half naked, half starved, half armed foe.

The easy crossing of the river on Thursday was a suspicious circumstance, which the subsequent events have only too well explained. The rebel General-in-Chief saw the advantage of the position which the authorities at Washington threw into his hands, and he made good use of the opportunity. This route to Richmond was the very one which the insurgent chiefs desired our government to select. It abounds with natural difficulties, and the War Department has permitted the enemy to add so many artificial obstructions that the campaign in Virginia this winter is likely to prove a failure.

The story of this campaign is the story of the Chickahominy, Harrison's Landing and Antietam repeated. Reinforcements were deliberately and pertinaciously withheld from McClellan previous to the seven days' battles before Richmond, which reinforcements would have placed him in possession of that city in a few days and saved thousands of lives. The same is true of the situation at Harrison's Landing. After the terrible battle of Antietam, which, won by his skill, saved Washington and caused the enemy to retreat over the Potomac, needful supplies were withheld from him, which prevented the rapid pursuit of Lee; and when he was at length in close proximity to the foe, and would have compelled him to fight or abandon Richmond, he was suddenly removed from the command of the army. The strong probability is that, had he been permitted to continue his own course, he would have been in possession of the rebel capital within a week. But he was stripped of his command for political reasons by the imbeciles at Washington, and the base of operations was changed to Aquia Creek—a course betraying the same vacillation and blind groping in the dark which had been previously exhibited in the case of McDowell's army. McClellan was ordered to advance by the valley of Virginia towards Gordonsville. That plan is abandoned, and another is substituted which is still worse, and which no military man of ability would have ever recommended. McClellan's own plan was the route of the James river—a plan which will probably yet have to be adopted if Richmond is ever to be taken.

Burnside was appointed McClellan's successor, and was directed to proceed to Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg. The bridges had been burned down. Instead of having the materials for the repair of the railroad from Aquia Creek to Fredericksburg ready, in order for the speedy transportation of supplies, nothing had been done when General Burnside arrived, and, worse still, the pontoons for crossing the river were not there. This red tape neglect was so flagrant as to cause General Burnside himself to repair to Washington to remonstrate with "the powers that be." For ten days their arrival was delayed, which gave the enemy ample time to concentrate his forces and to erect strong fortifications on the hills behind Fredericksburg. Had the pontoons been at hand when Burnside reached Falmouth he would have captured Fredericksburg without a struggle, occupied the heights beyond without any difficulty, and probably would have been in Richmond before now, had a supporting movement at the same time been made on the James river. The ground behind Fredericksburg was then unfortified, and the city was held only by a handful of rebels. The delay was fatal; and Lee could ask no greater advantage than the crossing of our army in the face of his works—an army with a river close at its back to cut off its retreat in the event of a disastrous defeat, and an enemy before it which could either give battle or safely retreat, according to circumstances. The result is repulse, great loss of life, and probably greater loss in the future. The War Department is accountable. The country is thoroughly aroused, and in view of the direct and fearful responsibilities of the government to the people, we trust Mr. Lincoln will lose no time in putting an end to a career of imbecility which is ruining the nation and bringing it into contempt with the civilized world.

INTERESTING FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Plymouth, N. C., Destroyed by Fire—A Shirmish Near Suffolk.

Newman, N. C., Dec. 10, 1862.

The United States steam transport S. D. Collins, Capt. Nickerson, leaves here this morning for New York. Capt. James C. Slaght, Chief Quartermaster of this department, whose official duties have saved the government millions of dollars, is to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and is to be transferred to New Orleans. Major General Foster, however, claims his services here as a military necessity.

The free labor movement, which has been extensively and quietly organized in Eastern North Carolina, is understood to be preparatory to the reorganization of the government of the State on a loyal basis, so that North Carolina may accept President Lincoln's policy of compensated emancipation.

There is much excitement in military matters in this department, and important results may be looked for soon.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 16, 1862.

The Portress Monroe letter of the 14th instant says that Plymouth, N. C., had been destroyed by fire, but by what division of the Union army was not known.

CONCERT AT HARTFORD.—The Sabbath school and choir of the Hartford First Baptist church, by request, will repeat their concert on Tuesday evening, December 16, at the church, in Fifth avenue, near 127th street, the entire proceeds to be appropriated for the relief of our sick and wounded soldiers.

NEWS FROM PORT ROYAL, S. C.

Arrival of the Steamers Bienville and Hale.

Two Vessels of the Banks Expedition at Port Royal.

Four Steamers and a Brig Bound Laden with Troops.

The United States steam gunboat Bienville, Commander J. R. M. Mulhally, arrived at this port yesterday morning from Port Royal, via Charleston harbor, 11th inst., having in tow the United States steam gunboat E. B. Hale, disabled. She left at the latter place the English steam frigate Ariadne and a steam sloop-of-war, which vessels had just communicated with the rebels by a flag of truce.

The Bienville returns to this port for repairs after an absence of thirteen months. She has been under steam three hundred and sixty days, during which time she has captured eleven prizes, two of which—the Stettin and Patras—were sent to this city, the former having since been turned into a gunboat, and is now doing active service.

She brings a large mail from the navy and army, and also a number of naval officers ordered to different vessels fitting out for sea.

The following is a list of her passengers—

Wm. R. Mayo, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N.; Jonathan Young, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N.; Edward Conroy, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant, U. S. N.; Howard Tibbitts and Thomas Crismon, Acting Masters, U. S. N.; Jos. Smith, Christopher Long and J. G. Foster, Gunners, U. S. N.; W. H. Ingersoll, Captain's clerk, U. S. N.; C. W. H. Hord and Acting Third Assistant Engineer, U. S. N.; V. H. Hord, Acting Master's Mate, U. S. N.; Capt. James P. Law, Staff of Brigadier General Saxon, U. S. N.; Capt. Hugh Channing, Mr. Michael Cummings, and Mr. James Stone, steamer John Adams; Mr. W. H. Beard and Mr. George Colt, Mr. John F. Baker, Second Mate of a buoy schooner.

The following is a list of the officers of the Bienville—

Commander—J. R. M. Mulhally.
Lieutenant Commander—E. R. Denham.
Acting Masters—Frank Smith, Edward H. Sheffield, Benjamin Whitmore, Wm. Bates.
Surgeon—Isaac L. Cooke.
Ferry-master—Wm. Wallace Goodwin.
Senior Engineer—Wm. F. Wright.
Second Assistant Engineer—Henry Hill.
Third Assistant Engineer—Jared Day, James Fountain, Bernard Kelley.
Master's Mate—Wm. W. Brandt, Frank H. Wilks, Wm. E. Littlefield, Alfred C. Smith, J. C. Pink.
Captain's Clerk—Eugene Deveraux.
Paymaster's Clerk—G. P. Smith.

The United States steamer E. B. Hale, A. F. Soss, Lieutenant Commander, from Port Royal, arrived at this port yesterday, in tow of the steamship Bienville.

Sailed from Port Royal on the morning of the 10th, and passed four steamers and a brig bound in, all heavily laden with troops.

The history of the Hale is full of interest. She was put in commission September 4, 1861, and soon afterwards joined the Potomac flotilla. In December she was assigned to the Ordnance Department and sent to Port Royal, with a cargo of shot and shell. The day after her arrival she led the advance in the attack on Port Royal. Prior to the bombardment of Fort Pulaski she was detailed to cut off communication between Savannah and that port. Here she was attacked twice by the rebel gunboats under Taylor, on both occasions they were repulsed. The last time Taylor put back with his flagship on fire. During the siege of Pulaski the Hale was in close proximity, and was the only vessel fired at by the rebels. In April she was ordered to North Edisto. Twelve miles from the mouth of the river she engaged a rebel battery single handed, and after a sharp fight of an hour's duration compelled its surrender. For this act she was complimented by the Secretary of the Navy, her officers and crew being assured of the Department's appreciation of their gallantry and services. She was also conspicuous in the attack on James Island, and would have taken the Tower battery, which made such fearful havoc among our soldiers, had not General Denham, in his anxiety to make it as dry ground, foolishly refused to avail himself of her services. In July she was ordered to the coast of Georgia for blockading purposes, and was soon afterwards assigned to the command of the naval forces in St. Johns river, Fla. During a temporary absence at Port Royal the rebels constructed batteries on St. Johns Island. In the final and successful attack the Hale led the advance, and her flag was hoisted on the rebel works. Soon after she passed up St. Johns river one hundred and sixty miles and aided in the capture of the steamer Governor Milton. Her last achievement was the capture of the schooner Wave, in Nassau river, laden with turpentine and cotton.

After a year's absence—a year of valuable service—she returns disabled, and will undergo thorough repairs.

The following is a list of her officers—

Lieutenant Commander—A. T. Smith.
Acting Master and Executive Officer—P. Dickinson.
Paymaster—Asa C. Winter.
Surgeon—W. N. Pritchard.
Acting Engineer—H. St. John.
Senior Engineer—C. H. Harrington.
Assistant Engineer—D. Hinton, George Taylor.
Master's Mate—Edw. T. Palmer.
Paymaster's Clerk—W. G. Gray.

Our Hilton Head Correspondence.

Hilton Head, S. C., Dec. 10, 1862.

Arrival of a Portion of General Banks' Expedition at Port Royal—Accorded to the People's Cause—She is Commanded by a Board of Officers—A Fine Steamer General Saxon, Military Governor of South Carolina, and the Tenth Army Corps, &c.

The steamship Ericsson, with Colonel D. C. Littlejohn's One Hundred and Fourth regiment of New York Volunteers on board, arrived at Port Royal on Monday evening. She had in tow the propeller Thames, laden with four hundred men of the One Hundred and Fourteenth New York regiment, Colonel Smith. These troops are a portion of the expedition of Major General Banks, but put into this port on account of an accident to the machinery of the Thames. They sailed from Hampton Roads, in company with twelve other vessels, on Thursday, the 4th inst. On Friday, when they were ten miles from the Ericsson, the Thames hoisted a signal of distress, and Captain Lowell at once put his vessel about and went to her relief. The wind was blowing very fresh at the time, and shortly afterwards increased to a gale, which lasted throughout the following day. At two P. M. on Saturday, in latitude 34 degrees 44 minutes, longitude 75 degrees 10 minutes, the hawser connecting the two vessels was parted, when Harry Barclay, the first officer of the Ericsson, with daring intrepidity and at the risk of losing the lives of himself and crew, succeeded in lowering a boat and getting the hawser again on board. The effect of the gale was fearful. In her disabled condition the Thames was rolled and tossed about to such an extent that for a time it was thought she would go to pieces. The rations of the crew were thrown overboard, and the heads of the water casks knocked in, to lighten her. While Mr. Barclay was endeavoring to reconnect the vessels she collided, the Ericsson losing two of her boats, and the Thames sustaining serious injuries in her bows.

The sinking of the lives of four hundred men in a steamer like the Thames is an outrage which calls for the loudest condemnation. A board of survey, appointed by General Brannan, made an examination of the vessel yesterday, and they report her to be utterly unseaworthy. Her sides are constructed of pine, and are so frail as to be positively unsafe. She was built either for service in smooth water, or, what is more likely, to bring men into the pockets of her owners by her sale to the government. It was the purpose of Colonel Littlejohn, who is in command of the Ericsson, of what these four hundred men, to transfer the troops on board the Thames to some other steamer at this port and proceed at once to their destination; but the insufficient means of transportation at General Brannan's command rendered such a plan impracticable, and so Colonel Smith's detachment remain here, while the Ericsson, having replenished her supplies of coal and water, has gone on to overtake the balance of the expedition at the appointed place of rendezvous.

The secret of General Banks' destination has been well kept. No one on board either the Ericsson or the Thames was able to impart it. Both vessels were under sealed orders, and not to be opened until after passing Port Royal. I surmise, however, that the next arrivals from the Gulf will reveal the whereabouts of General Banks' forces, and that the capture of Mobile will be among the more important items which they will bring.

A little feud has arisen in the midst of General Saxon and the forces of the Tenth Army Corps. Last week, during the absence of Fortification of General Brannan and Colonel Good, the latter of whom is in command of the forces on Port Royal Island, Colonel Richard White of the Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania, was temporarily placed in authority. By his command a stable, used by some of General Saxon's employees, was burned down. General Saxon reconstructed it, and I learn that he had word issued. At any rate, the General threatened some action.

rank to place Colonel White in arrest, and to assume the control of the military forces of the island. Brannan's return, last Monday, General Saxon preferred against Colonel White several charges, among which are "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline" and "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." General Brannan, while denying the right of General Saxon to exercise any authority over the troops, has, nevertheless, ordered a general court martial to be convened, and the following officers, comprising the detail of the court, are to-day trying the case—Brigadier General Terry, Chief of Staff, Volunteers; Colonel T. H. Good, Forty-seventh Pennsylvania; Colonel H. R. Guse, Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania; Colonel J. D. Rust, Eighth Maine; Colonel J. K. Hawley, Seventh Connecticut; Colonel J. H. Smith, Third Rhode Island artillery; Lieutenant Colonel G. W. Alexander, Forty-seventh Pennsylvania; Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Twichell, Eighth Maine; Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Reddell, Third New Hampshire; Major Cassler, Forty-seventh Pennsylvania; Major John Freese, Third Rhode Island artillery; Captain J. P. S. Gibbs, Forty-seventh Pennsylvania, Judge Advocate. Among the officers of the corps the act of General Saxon is generally deemed a usurpation on his part; and, inasmuch as this opinion is to be either sustained or overruled by the Court, a good deal of interest is manifested in the trial.

The ferry boat John Adams, from Boston on the 25th ult., arrived here safely on Saturday evening, after a rough and tedious passage. She has been purchased by the Navy Department, and will prove very serviceable in the shallow waters of the Southern coast.

REBEL CAVALRY RAID INTO POOLESVILLE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1862.

Last night, about eight o'clock, rebel cavalry, under Major White, about three hundred and thirty-five strong, made a raid into Pooleville, Maryland. They found there thirty-five men of Company I, Scott's Ninth Hundred, quartered in a wooden building. After a brief but determined struggle, and when the building was on fire, Lieutenant Smith and seven men of Company I surrendered. On our side the loss was one killed, and two wounded, namely—Lieutenant Smith and Corporal Berry. The rebels lost two killed and thirteen wounded. Of course they took everything valuable from the men they paroled, and thoroughly stripped the body of Lieutenant Smith, who was, according to the testimony of Colonel James B. Swan, one of the bravest men that ever served his country. He had been ten years in the regular service.

Another Account.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1862.

Company I, of the Scott Ninth Hundred Cavalry, Lieutenant Smith commanding, which was stationed at a picket guard at Pooleville, Md., was attacked last night by two hundred and sixty-five rebel cavalry, under Major White.

Of the Scott Ninth Hundred one man, Sergeant Silder, was killed, and one, Corporal Berry, wounded. The rebels lost two killed and thirteen wounded.

At last the rebels succeeded in setting fire to the building in which the Scott Ninth Hundred had their quarters, and Lieutenant Smith, with seventeen men, surrendered. The remaining eighteen men escaped. Considering the disparity of numbers, the resistance made by the Scott Ninth Hundred was vigorous if unsuccessful.

INTERESTING FROM NASHVILLE.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 15, 1862.

According to the Rebel Banner John Davis has arrived at Murfreesboro, and is the guest of Mr. Mammy. The rebels have recaptured Franklin.

The enemy seem to be moving up. Forrest is not at Charlotte, but there is a heavy force at Nashville and Trine.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1862.

THE PAYMENT OF THE INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC DEBT IN SPECIE.

The members of the Committee on Ways and Means, voted as follows to-day on Mr. Washburne's resolution, declaring, as the judgment of the House, that there should be no legislation changing the existing law providing for the payment of interest on the public debt in coin—Yeas—Messrs. Sumner, Morrill, of Vt., Gerrit Hooper and Maynard. Mr. Stevens only voted in the negative. Messrs. Spaulding, Phelps of Mo., and Corning were absent.

THE BAN REMOVED FROM ALLEGED DISLOYAL NEWSPAPERS.

The Postmaster General, Mr. Blair, has rescinded all the orders heretofore made excluding from the post office and mails of the United States certain newspapers presented by grand juries and otherwise represented as disloyal to the government.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE PENALTY RELATIVE TO WORKING ON SUNDAY.

Representations having been made at the office of Internal Revenue that many persons who are required by the Excise law to use proprietary